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DIRECTORATE OF  
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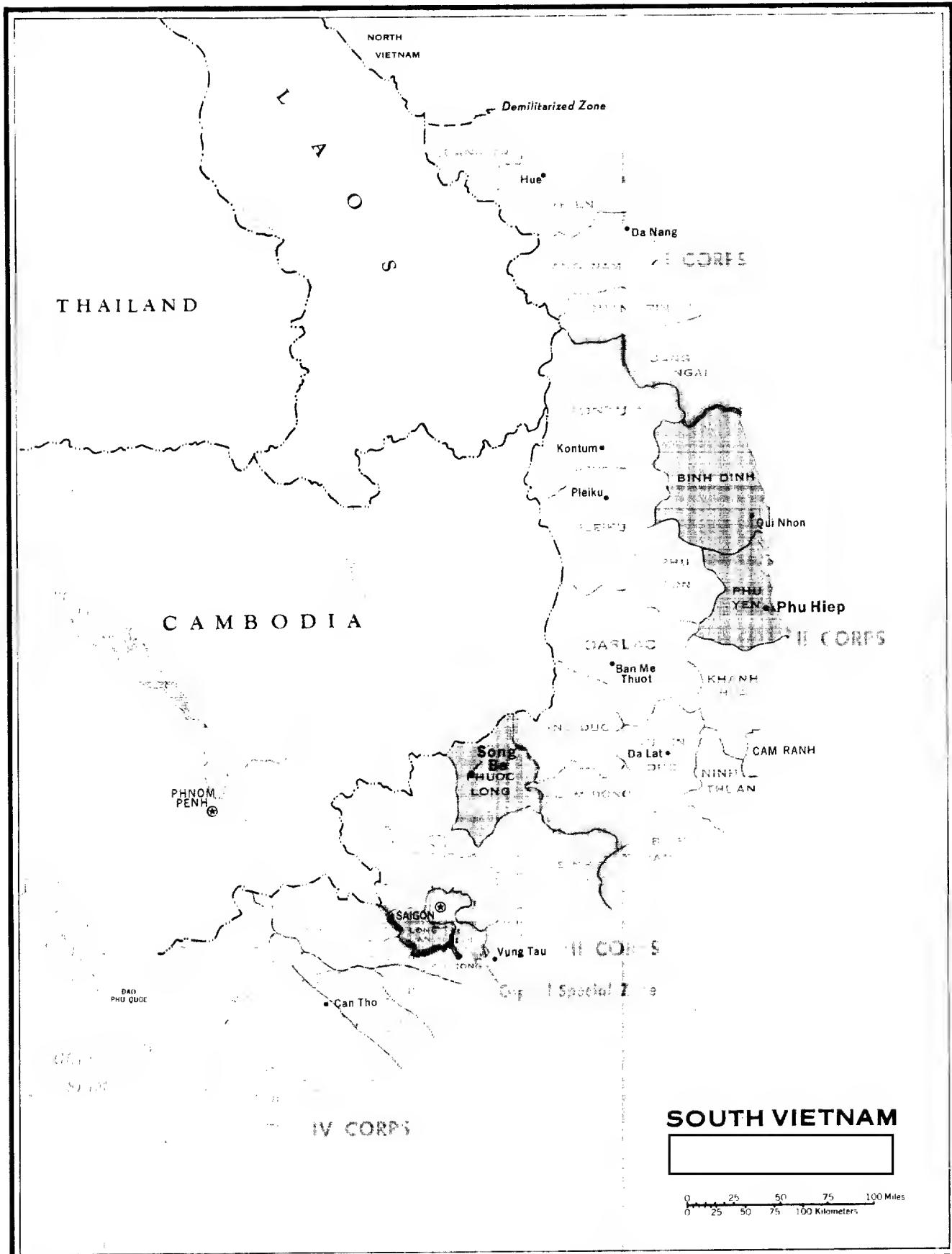
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enemy preparations for renewed attacks, possibly countrywide, to be initiated sometime between now and mid-August.

The present lack of hard indicators which would normally appear in the days immediately prior to a major enemy offensive suggests that the attacks are unlikely in the next few days.

Most of the military activity noted on 4-5 August occurred in II and III corps. In the coastal II Corps province of Phu Yen, two South Vietnamese companies were attacked by an enemy company on 4 August. Just to the south of that engagement, six Americans were wounded and six aircraft damaged when 27 mortar rounds struck the US Army airfield at Phu Hiep. In northern Binh Dinh Province a South Vietnamese platoon was attacked by two Viet Cong companies on 5 August.

In III Corps, two enemy companies fought a day-long battle on 3 August near Song Be in northwestern Phuoc Long Province with South Vietnamese units. In Long An Province at least 41 Communists were killed on 4-5 August in a battle with US forces following an enemy attack on a helicopter operation.

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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak and foreign Communists alike are still trying to assess the agreements reached at Cierna and at Bratislava.

Czechoslovakia's future relations with its allies will depend in large part on how each interprets the broad principles expressed in the Bratislava communique, and on how strongly the Soviets insist on their point of view.

One Prague radio commentator has noted that there would be no censorship in Czechoslovakia, but that journalists had been requested, and had agreed, to practice self-restraint as far as Czechoslovakia's allies are concerned. The journalists interpret this restriction, however, to mean that they can continue to comment on other Communist parties, but without vituperation.

Another result of the Cierna meeting, according to Prague radio, is that the Czechoslovaks may unilaterally decide what is, and what is not hostile to Communism in Czechoslovakia. In this context, the commentator specifically mentioned the Club of Committed Nonparty People, which had come under severe Soviet attack, and implied that it would continue to exist without controls.

The chief of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party probably voiced the skeptical reaction of many of his countrymen yesterday when he indicated that the Czechoslovaks had won toleration for the time being, but that only time will tell if real friendship will develop among the Bratislava conferees. Prague radio has sounded a similar note, warning that more chapters are yet to be written by leaders of other Communist countries who had been hostile until a few days ago. [redacted]

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Bolivia: President Barrientos' decision to convoke congress as scheduled has, temporarily at least, calmed political tensions.

Barrientos had threatened earlier to resign, but an all night meeting with political leaders and armed forces commander General Ovando apparently changed his mind. He reportedly gained the grudging support of civilian politicians for his actions over the past two weeks, including the declaration of a state of siege and the arrest of two opposition senators. Barrientos, in turn, agreed to convoke congress on 6 August, although he had indicated earlier that he would delay the opening of congress until after a supreme court ruling on congress' constitutionality.

This move will deprive antigovernment groups of a major issue, but political tensions could rise again if the opposition in congress succeeds in provoking a confrontation with the government over the handling of the Guevara diary case. Student demonstrations, such as the one in Cochabamba on 2 August which resulted in two deaths, could also cause serious problems for Barrientos if they continue.

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NOTES

South Korea: The unexpected shuffle of several senior military commanders by President Pak on 4 August appears to have resulted from Pak's dissatisfaction with the performance of his minister of defense. A public controversy involving leaks of military information to the press provided Pak with a convenient excuse to make changes now. The new minister of defense, Im Chung-sik, is reported to be pro-US and most recently was chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

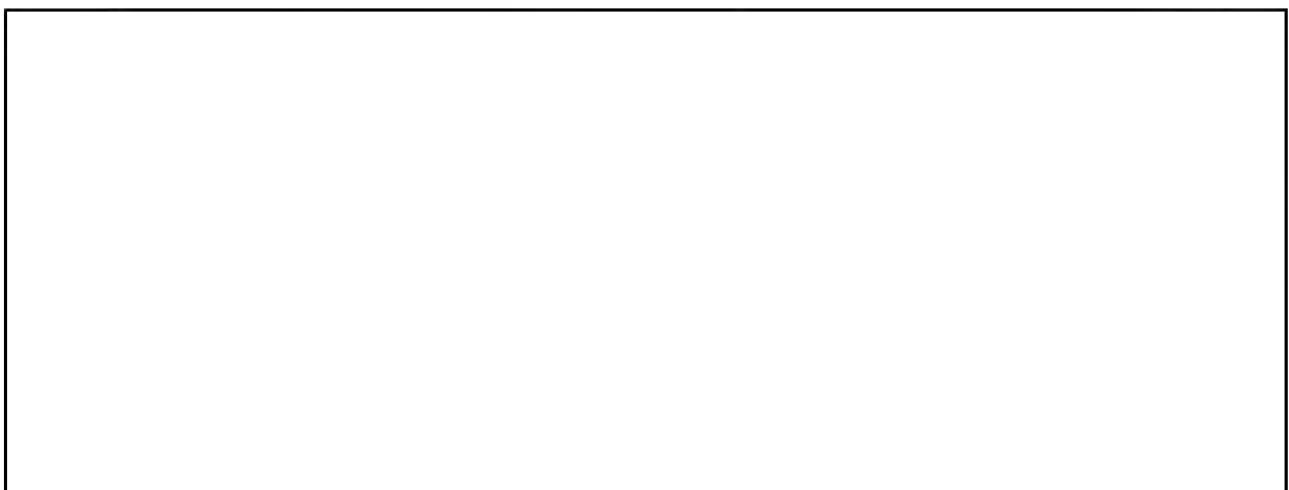
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Middle East - Africa: The locust swarms infesting large parts of the Middle East and Africa since early spring have moved into other areas. Dense swarms have been reported in southern Iran, the first such occurrence at this time of year in 50 years, and new swarms have been reported in Rajasthan State in western India. Soviet experts are now assisting both the Iranian and the Ethiopian governments to combat the threat.

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Dominican Republic: Revolutionary Party Secretary General Pena Gomez claims that his recent talks with party elder statesman Juan Bosch in Spain have produced a "new political course" for the party. He gave no explanation of what this course would be, but some party leaders have criticized Bosch's pressure for an even more vehemently anti-US and anti-Balaguer policy.

Pena hinted that next year Bosch will return to the Dominican Republic or at least shift the location of his self-imposed exile to Puerto Rico. In the meantime, Pena said, Bosch has been invited to visit the USSR and several Eastern European countries and is waiting for the party leadership to approve or reject these controversial bids.

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